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Senate

IN HONOR OF TWO FALLEN SOUTH DAKOTA SOLDIERS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, earlier this week, Italy observed a national day of mourning. Tens of thousands of people lined a procession route and gathered at a basilica in Rome to pay their final respects to 19 Italian soldiers killed last week in a truck bombing in Nasiriyah, Iraq. The soldiers' deaths mark Italy's single worst military loss since World War II. The American people share Italy's sorrow over their enormous loss.

There is also a profound sense of sorrow this week in South Dakota, Mr. President. Two of the 17 American soldiers killed last Saturday, when those two Army Black Hawk helicopters collided in the sky over the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, were from our state. South Dakota lost as many soldiers in that instant as we had lost in the entire Iraq war so far. We mourn our lost sons: Army Chief Warrant Officer II Scott Saboe; and Army Private First Class Sheldon Hawk Eagle. We also mourn the 15 soldiers lost with them, and all of the 424 U.S. service members who have given their lives, so far, in this war, as well as the sons and daughters of our allies who have been lost in this war.

Chief Warrant Officer Scott Saboe was 33 years old, a career soldier with 14 years of military service. He leaves behind his wife, Franceska, and their 6-year-old son, Dustin, who live in Alabama. His father, Arlo Saboe, with whom I just spoke, is a decorated Vietnam War veteran who lost his wife and brother in the last two years. His sister, Ann Remington, is stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center near Washington. Willow Lake, where Scott Saboe grew up, is a small town. Only about 300 people live there. On Sunday, more than half of them stopped by Arlo Saboe's house to pay their condolences.

Before Iraq, Scott Saboe had flown helicopters over the demilitarized zone in Korea. As his father told a reporter for the *Sioux Falls Argus Leader*, "He was willing to go anywhere." He reportedly was scheduled to return to the United States in two weeks for training.

Today, at Willow Lake high school, where he played center on the football team, the flag has been lowered to half-staff. Bill Stobbs, a former teacher and football coach who now is the school's principal, told the *Argus Leader*, "He died doing what he loved, and he was a dedicated soldier. That's all there is to it." Darin Michalski, a childhood friend, said: "Most of us can go through our whole lives and don't really accomplish anything, and some of us only live to be 33, and we're heroes."

Private First Class Sheldon Hawk Eagle was just 21. He lived in Eagle Butte, on the Cheyenne River Sioux reservation, and was

an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe, one of about 90 members of the tribe deployed to Iraq.

He was a descendant of the legendary Lakota warrior leader, Crazy Horse. His Lakota name was Wanbi Ohitika—"Brave Eagle." Like Scott Saboe, Sheldon Hawk Eagle grew up in a family that viewed military service as a citizen's duty. His grandfather, father and uncle all served. Friends and family members describe him as a hard-working, quiet young man. One of his former teachers remembers his "nice smile."

His parents died when he was a young boy. He was raised by his aunt and uncle, Harvey and Fern Hawk Eagle. His only surviving sibling, his sister, Frankie Allyn Hawk Eagle, lives in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He enlisted in Grand Forks, in June 2002, to be close to her. He was deployed to Iraq in March and reportedly had hoped to be home this coming February.

Emmanuel Red Bear, a spiritual leader who teaches Lakota language and culture at Eagle Butte High School, remembered Hawk Eagle to a reporter as an aggressive, but fair, football player who was a model of sportsmanship on and off the field. Said Red Bear of Hawk Eagle, "He was a role model, in his quiet way. The younger kids looked up to him. ... He really was a modern-day warrior." Tribal Chairman Harold Frazier said simply: "He's our hero. He defended our country and protected our freedom."

News of Scott Saboe's and Sheldon Hawk Eagle's deaths reached their hometowns on Sunday. Many people first heard the news first at church services.

It had been some time since South Dakota had lost anyone in Iraq. On May 9, Chief Warrant Officer Hans Gukeisen of Lead was killed when the Black Hawk helicopter he was co-piloting got caught in a power line and went down in the Tigris River. On June 18, Private First Class Michael Deuel of Nemo was killed while on guard duty at a propane distribution center in Baghdad.

The crash of the two Black Hawks last Saturday was the deadliest single incident since the United States invaded Iraq. The military is investigating whether enemy ground fire may have caused the crash. All 17 of the victims were from the Army's 101st Airborne Division—the famed "Screaming Eagles"—the same unit that parachuted into Normandy on D-Day.

Like people in every state, South Dakotans sometimes focus on our superficial differences: East River versus West River, Native American versus the sons and daughters of pioneers and immigrants. Today, we are one state, united in sadness over the deaths of our soldiers and pride over the noble lives they lived.



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Senate

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERETT “EP” HOWE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, this week, members of the Rapid City, South Dakota National Guard, and Ellsworth Air Force Base communities will gather to honor Everett “Ep” Howe for his lifetime of dedicated service. Today I salute the life and work of one of South Dakota’s finest patriots.

For nearly 70 years, Ep has dedicated himself to serving his community and his country. He began his career in the public service, joining the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1921, and serving as Park Ranger and U.S. Border Patrol Officer before joining the military in 1944. He proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1944 to 1948, including a tour with the 9th Marine Aircraft Wing during World War II.

Discharged as a Marine Sergeant, he returned to Rapid City, his wife, Grace, and a career in construction. To say that, in many ways, Ellsworth Air Force Base is “The House That Ep Built,” is no measure of hyperbole. Not only has he donated land and raised money for the base, he actually contributed to the construction of some of its buildings. During his time with both Hacket Construction and Corner, Howe, & Lee Construction, he worked on a number of projects at what is now Ellsworth, including the construction of the original Rapid City Air Force Base, which opened in 1942.

Throughout his life, Ep has been a tremendous supporter and friend of the military. A longtime committee member of the South Dakota Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and of the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs

Committee, he has been particularly dedicated to strengthening relationships between civilian and military communities. He has received several awards for his work in the military community, including the Department of Defense “Lifetime Achievement Award” and the South Dakota National Guard Major General Williamson Militia Award.

In addition to supporting the military, he has been a tireless and dedicated servant of his community. He has served on the South Dakota Highway Commission, the Rapid City Area Disaster Foundation, the YMCA Board of Directors and Board of Trustees, and the American Legion. He has also been a dedicated member of First Presbyterian Church in Rapid City, the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce, and the local Elks Lodge. Not surprisingly, Ep has received a number of awards for his work in the community as well, including being named “Mr. Rapid City” for his lifelong service as a community leader.

Tomorrow, a bust of Ep will be unveiled in Building 450 on Camp Rapid. It is only fitting that this bust will occupy the building where leaders of the South Dakota National Guard regularly meet. Ep’s bust will look down on the proceedings and provide these leaders what he has provided so many South Dakotans over the years; a friendly countenance, moral support, and a model for community leadership. I commend Ep for his lifetime of accomplishment, and offer my deepest gratitude for the work he has done and continues to do.